

PALEONTOLOGY.—*A Pleistocene pearl from southern Maryland.*¹ ROLAND W. BROWN, U. S. Geological Survey.

In a previous paper² I discussed the occurrence of pearls in species of *Inoceramus*

¹ Published by permission of the Director, U. S. Geological Survey. Received January 2, 1946.

² BROWN, ROLAND W. *Fossil pearls from the Colorado group of western Kansas*. Journ. Washington Acad. Sci. 30: 365-374. 1940.

found in Upper Cretaceous deposits of western Kansas and tabulated the known distribution of fossil pearls and pearllike objects of similar origin. Reference to my table (p. 370) discloses that, so far as known, only two Pleistocene pearls have been reported, one from *Mytilus edulis* and the other from

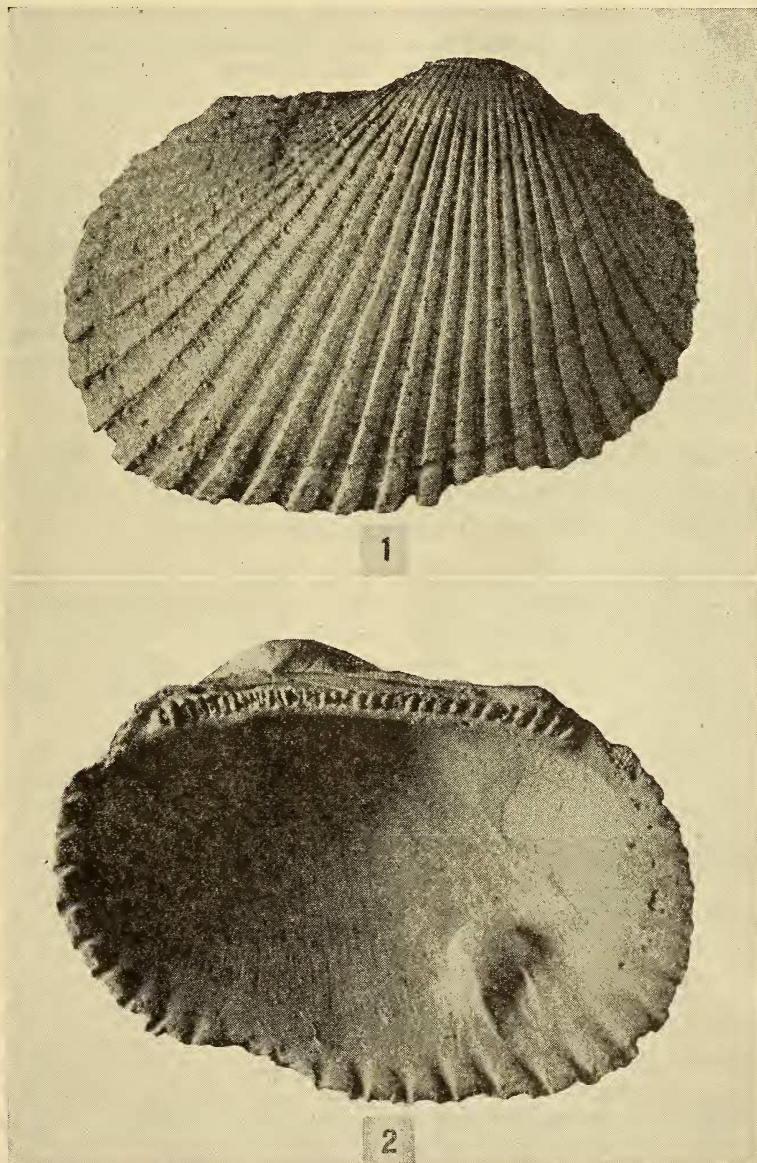


FIG. 1.—Exterior of right valve of *Arca transversa*. FIG. 2.—Interior of the valve, showing pearl. $\times 8$. Photos by Nelson W. Shupe

Volsella modiolus, both from localities in the British Isles.

On November 7, 1942, I accompanied Dr. S. F. Blake, of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, on a trip to Point Lookout, in southern Maryland. About 4 miles northwest of the Point the Potomac River has cut back into the land forming a long, low, vertical cliff called Wailes Bluff, well illustrated by Shattuck.³ Exposed in the basal part at and a few feet above water level is compact, blue, sandy marine clay filled with Pleistocene shells. Resting on the blue clay is a lenticular oyster bed and well-stratified, horizontal, dark sandy clay overlain by light-colored cross-bedded sand and gravel belonging presumably to the Talbot terrace of the Pleistocene. Fragmentary leaves and pieces of wood may be had from the lower sandy clay strata of this unit.

At one spot in the lowermost beds along

³ SHATTUCK, GEORGE B. *Pliocene and Pleistocene*. Maryland Geol. Survey, pl. 18. 1906.

BOTANY.—*New bamboos from Szechwan Province, China*.¹ YI-LI KENG and PAI-CHIEH KENG.² Department of Biology, National Central University, Chungking, China. (Communicated by AGNES CHASE.)

In this paper are described four new species and one new variety of Chinese bamboos. One of the species and the variety are known only from sterile specimens, while the descriptions of the other three species are based on their floral parts as well as on their vegetative organs. Illustrations have been prepared for the species with flowers. The types of all are deposited in the Herbarium of the Department of Biology of National Central University.

Sinocalamus distegius Keng & Keng f.

sp. nov.

Fig. 1

Species evidenter cognata *Sinocalamo affini* (Rendle) McClure, ex qua culmo apice num-

¹ Received January 11, 1946.

² In a previous paper by these authors (Journ. Washington Acad. Sci. 35 (12): 374-378, figs. 1-18. 1945.) the junior author's other name, Keng Kwan-hou, was unfortunately used. He expects, however, to use the name Keng Pai-chieh in future publications, hence it is used here.

the bluff I found a large specimen of the snail *Busycon carica* that was filled with blue mud containing numerous small marine mollusks. Not long ago, cleaning out and breaking up this mud, now well dried, I uncovered a right valve (length, 1 cm) of *Arca transversa* to whose interior surface at the pallial line toward the posterior was attached an almost spherical pearl. As *Arca transversa* belongs to a genus whose species do not secrete nacre, or mother-of-pearl, this "pearl" is not a true pearl in the strict sense, although its mode of formation was otherwise undoubtedly similar to that of precious or ornamental pearls. The outside surface of the valve, directly under the pearl, is free of any scar or blemish, thus indicating that the inciting cause of the pearl was not a shell-borer. The location of the pearl at the pallial line just under the mantle, however, as well as its spherical shape, suggests strongly that a sand grain or other irritating object, either organic or inorganic, which the mollusk could not eject, was the cause.

quam pendulo, vaginis culmorum dorso inter pilos setosos valde pruinosis, vaginae nodo quando juvenili pilis retrorsis brunneis dense hirsuto, spiculis majoribus, et ovario pilis hirsutis brevioribus minoribus inferne obsito difert.

Arbor circa 10 m alta, 4.5 cm diametro, apice leviter arcuata sed haud pendula; internodia teretia, pleraque 20-50 cm longa, juvenilia superne leviter pruinosa et pilis albis adpressis deciduis hispida; vaginae culmorum coriaceae, late oblongae, circiter $\frac{1}{2}$ longitudinem internodiorum aequantes, pleraque pilis flavidis vel badiis, dense setosae et juveniles inter pilos farina alba graviter obsitae, basi persistente circa nodos earum annulo pilorum 2-3 mm longorum retrorsorum brunneorum post casum vaginarum facile deciduorum dense hirsutae; limbi longe triangulares vel lanceolati, saepissime erecti, inferiores minores rigidioresque, superiores majores malacioresque; rami numerosi, semiverticillati, ramulis plerisque folia nonnulla ad multa